



CANADIAN COAST GUARD SHIP CAMSELL

Whether travelling through icy Arctic waters, off the stormy coast of the Queen Charlotte Islands, or in the calmer waters surrounding the Gulf Islands, Canadian Coast Guard Ship CAMSELL is at home. This versatile icebreaker/navaids tender has effectively discharged the many tasks assigned to her captain and crew for the past 25 years.

From July to October, CAMSELL is deployed on an annual 16,000 km Arctic patrol. With her special alloy steel hull, she can easily cut through ice up to .6 metres thick clearing a path for commercial resupply vessels. A Coast Guard helicopter is carried on board throughout CAMSELL's four-month stint to assist in ice reconnaissance, delivery of essential supplies to isolated Inuit communities and servicing vital navigational aids.

CAMELL made her first trip from Victoria through the Bering Strait into the western Arctic in 1960. Her patrol reaches western Arctic settlements as far east as Spence Bay on the Boothia Peninsula as she escorts vessels from Tuktoyaktuk, Northwest Territories, into Coronation Gulf and Queen Maud Gulf.

In 1962, CAMSELL became the first ship to circumnavigate King William Island in the remote Arctic. After carrying out her regular duties along the Arctic coastline, she went north from Spence Bay to Bellot Strait and then returned to Cambridge Bay by Victoria Strait. The original attempt to meet this challenge was made by the ill-fated Franklin expedition in 1845. In 1984, CAMSELL circumnavigated King William Island from west to east to escort MV LINDBLAD EXPLORER, the first passenger vessel to transit the North West Passage.

Her Arctic patrols have not been without cost. In 1978, CAMSELL sustained heavy damage to her hull while operating in Queen Maud Gulf and almost sunk. She was towed out of the Arctic back to Victoria where she underwent extensive engine room repairs and a general refit.

During her many Arctic patrols, CAMSELL has assisted in hydrographic work measuring the depth of the ocean floor, or "sounding", in uncharted waters. To date, she has recorded over 11,200 km of soundings of uncharted waters of the western Arctic, including 320 km of soundings around Spence Bay. She has also carried out special harbour surveys.

On a regular west coast patrol, CAMSELL may travel from the Victoria Coast Guard Base through the waters surrounding Vancouver Island and the Queen Charlotte Islands as far north as Alaska. She services

navigational aids throughout British Columbia's coastal waters and transports supplies to any number of Coast Guard's 42 manned lightstations. CAMSELL, like the other west coast navaids tenders, WOLFE and SIR JAMES DOUGLAS, may also work in search and rescue missions or participate in pollution control and clean up activities.

Built in 1959 by Burrard Drydock of North Vancouver, CAMSELL is 68 m long and 15 m wide. She is self-contained, carrying everything on board needed to support her crew of 41. During the two to three weeks she is at sea on a monthly lighthouse resupply trip, CAMSELL cruises an average of 1,000 km at a speed of 12 knots.

CAMELL is propelled by two electric motors, each developing 2,125 shaft horsepower. Electricity is produced by four generating sets powered by Fairbanks Morse eight cylinder opposed piston diesel engines.

CAMELL commemorates Dr. Charles Camsell, a Canadian geologist and explorer of the Northwest Territories in the first half of this century. Dr. Camsell, born in Ft. Liard, NWT, in 1876, also served as Deputy Minister of Mines and Resources from 1936 to 1946.

In her dual role as an aids tender/medium icebreaker, the CCGS CAMSELL safeguards commercial sea lanes in two oceans—the Arctic and the Pacific. CAMSELL is a vital part of the Coast Guard's west coast operations.

For more information call:

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CCG Western Region Aids to Navigation

NAME	TYPE	BASE
CAMELL	icebreaker/ aids tender	Victoria
WOLFE	icebreaker/ aids tender	Prince Rupert
SIR JAMES DOUGLAS	aids tender	Victoria
MISKANAW	aids tender	Fort McMurray
DUMIT	aids tender	Hay River
TEMLAH	aids tender	Hay River
ECKALOO	aids tender	Hay River
NAHIDIK	aids tender	Hay River
SIKORSKY	aids servicing/	
HELICOPTER (1)	Supply unit	Prince Rupert
HELICOPTERS (5)	aids servicing	Victoria



Canadian
Coast Guard

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